

FOREWORD

*Alberto Costi and Taran Molloy**

This issue of the New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law includes the revised version of the Robin Cooke Lecture delivered by Justice Sir Joe Williams of the Supreme Court of New Zealand on 4 December 2019, an annual event honouring the late Lord Cooke of Thorndon. In his address, entitled "Build a Bridge and Get over It: The Role of Colonial Dispossession in Contemporary Indigenous Offending and What We Should Do about It", Sir Joe Williams raises key questions relating to recent figures on sentencing of Māori offenders in a comparative context. He provides a fertile ground for reflection on forward-looking solutions to rectify the situation, interweaved with a compelling and indicative account of one person's interactions with the judicial system.

This issue also comprises two scholarly contributions. Hannah Reid examines the evolution of the principles of international criminal law pertaining to the liability of arms dealers and their application by international criminal tribunals, beginning with the jurisprudence of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Referring to the ongoing Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, she then assesses the possibility that those profiting from the sales of arms used to commit international crimes may be prosecuted before the International Criminal Court. In her article, Jessica Sutton continues the exploration of legal issues relating to the arms trade. She highlights the relationship between gender-based violence and access to small arms. She then analyses the difficulties with, and reluctance of states to apply, art 7(4) of the Arms Trade Treaty, a provision aimed at preventing arms trading that may generate such violence. Particular attention is given to analysing New Zealand's formal commitments and substantive implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, and what steps New Zealand can take to strengthen the overall implementation of art 7(4). She offers a series of options to ensure a more effective application of that provision and more generally, of mechanisms contributing to the eradication of gender-based violence.

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This is the first issue published since the sad passing of Professor Peter Hogg. In this issue, Sir Kenneth Keith pays tribute to this leading Canadian public law scholar, originally from New Zealand, and a valued member of the Advisory Board of the Journal since its inception in 2003.

Evolving with the times, the Journal is, from this issue onward, only accessible online. Currently in its 18th year, the Journal thus adopts the trend of many law journals around the world. The decision is based on the observation that many libraries worldwide have proceeded to make cost-cutting measures and are no longer collecting hard copies of journals. Moreover, scholars, students and practitioners nowadays undertake research mainly through electronic databases, where the Journal is already widely available. Needless to say, the Journal will continue its long-standing tradition of assessing suitability of submissions through a thorough peer review process by experts based in New Zealand and overseas.

The format of the Journal, where general issues are complemented occasionally by thematic issues, will not change. Forthcoming are a couple of special issues bringing together New Zealand and overseas authors on topical matters. Calls for papers for the upcoming general issues continue to be advertised regularly.

Although the Journal may from time to time proceed to publish printed copies for special issues, the norm will be to make the Journal available to a wide audience through databases and our website, where past issues will also be accessible. We thank all the subscribers for the many years of loyal support and look with great confidence at the future as we soon approach the 20th anniversary of the New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law.